In the Claims:

Please amend claim 1, without prejudice, and cancel claims 3-8 and 20-33, as follows:

1. (currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule, comprising a nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide with chorismate mutase activity or the complement ~~a complementary strand~~ thereof, wherein the nucleic acid is selected from

(a) a nucleic acid ~~having~~comprising the DNA sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1 or the RNA sequence corresponding thereto; and

(b) ~~a nucleic acid which hybridises with the complementary strand of a nucleic acid according to (a);~~

~~(c)~~ a nucleic acid which on the basis of the genetic code is degenerate to the DNA sequences defined in (a) ~~and (b)~~;

~~(d) a nucleic acid which hybridises with one of the nucleic acids stated in (a) to (c) and the complementary strand whereof codes for a polypeptide with chorismate mutase activity;~~

~~(e) a nucleic acid comprising the nucleic acid stated in (a);~~

~~(f) a nucleic acid comprising at least two of the nucleic acids set forth in (a) to (e);~~

~~wherein the polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid or complementary strand thereof has at least 10% of the chorismate mutase activity of the chorismate mutase according to SEQ ID NO:2,~~ with the proviso that the nucleic acid molecule does not include the nucleic acid sequence of the ARO7 gene from *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*.

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2. (previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid molecule according to Claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is a desoxyribo-nucleic acid molecule.

3. (canceled)

4. (canceled)

5. (canceled)

6. (canceled)

7. (canceled)

8. (canceled)

9. (previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid molecule according to Claim 1, further comprising a promoter suitable to control expression of the polypeptide encoded by said isolated nucleic acid, wherein the nucleic acid coding for a polypeptide with chorismate mutase activity is under the control of the promoter.

10. (previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid molecule according to Claim 9, characterised in that the promoter is the MOX promoter or the FMD promoter from *Hansenula polymorpha*.

11. (previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid molecule according to Claim 9, further comprising a heterologous nucleic acid sequence suitable to direct expression and optionally secretion of the polypeptide encoded by said isolated nucleic acid.

12. (previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid molecule according to Claim 9, wherein the nucleic acid molecule contains at least a part of a vector, further wherein the vector is selected from: bacteriophages, plasmids, adenoviruses, vaccinia viruses, baculoviruses, SV40 virus and retroviruses.

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13. (previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid molecule according to Claim 9, wherein the nucleic acid further comprises a His-tag coding nucleic acid sequence and the expression of the nucleic acid molecule leads to the formation of a fusion protein with a His-tag.

14. (previously presented) A recombinant host cell, comprising the nucleic acid molecule according to Claim 9, wherein the host cell is a prokaryotic or eukaryotic cell suitable for the expression of a polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid molecule.

15. (previously presented) The host cell according to Claim 14, wherein the prokaryotic cell is selected from the group consisting of an *E. coli* cell and a *Bacillus subtilis* cell.

16. (previously presented) The recombinant host cell according to Claim 14, wherein the eukaryotic cell is selected from the group consisting of a yeast cell, an insect cell, and a mammalian cell.

17. (previously presented) A process for the production of a polypeptide with chorismate mutase activity, wherein the nucleic acid molecule according to Claim 1 is expressed in a host cell suitable for the expression of a polypeptide encoded by said nucleic acid molecule and the protein is isolated if necessary.

18. (previously presented) The process according to Claim 17 wherein the polypeptide with chorismate mutase activity produced is chemically modified or is post-translationally modified within said host cell.

19. (previously presented) A process for the production of a polypeptide with chorismate mutase activity, wherein said polypeptide is expressed in a host cell according to Claim 14.

20-33. (canceled)

34. (previously presented) The non-naturally occurring host cell of claim 16, wherein the yeast cell is selected from the group consisting of a *Hansenula polymorpha* cell and a *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* cell.

35. (previously presented) The non-naturally occurring host cell of claim 16, wherein the mammalian cell is selected from the group consisting of a CHO cell, a COS cell and a HeLa cell.

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